

x Ag 3-3-1  
x Def Russia  
x Pers 2 John STENNIS

# Cuba Received Few Arms Since October, M'Cone Says

## Vast Stores Sent Before Quarantine

WASHINGTON (AP)—CIA Director John A. McCone said Wednesday that only "a relatively small amount of Soviet military equipment has reached Cuba" in the period since the October crisis.

He outlined the current military situation in Cuba in a statement to the Senate preparedness subcommittee, which he said represents the agreed views of the U.S. Intelligence Board.

This board, which McCone heads, is made up of the chief intelligence officers of various government agencies.

A preface said the statement "rests on the most up-to-date and reliable data available to the U.S. government and is derived from all of the intelligence gathering resources at its disposal, including daily aerial surveillance."

### Behind Closed Doors

His actual testimony was given to the senators behind closed doors. He did not complete his testimony and will return for a second closed session today.

McCone conceded in his statement that what it adds up to is that:

"(A) There remain large quantities of Soviet tanks, aircraft and troops, including extensive photographic coverage, gives the most of which arrived before the quarantine and

"(B) A relatively small amount of Soviet military equipment has reached Cuba in the period since the quarantine."

This was a reference to the partial naval blockade President Kennedy imposed Oct. 23 on shipments to Cuba. The President ordered a further squeeze on shipping into Cuba Wednesday.

### Careful Checks

McCone took note of "many rumors and reports of the continued presence of offensive weapons in Cuba," including a number of reports that such weapons have been concealed in caves. He said all these stories have been checked carefully and "so far the findings have been negative."

He conceded, though, that only continuing, penetrating, on-site inspection—which is lacking—could provide "absolute assurance on these matters."

The text of the statement: Hundreds of reports on Soviet forces in Cuba are received weekly by U.S. intelligence agencies and each of them is checked carefully for reliability and credibility by trained and experienced intelligence analysts.

The quantity of information

derived from all sources, in the United States of the Soviet military presence in Cuba today.

At the President's direction the situation in Cuba has been regularly reviewed and information has been made available through the Department of Defense over the last several months.

As has been frequently reported, there was a substantial buildup of Soviet military equipment and military forces prior to the "quarantine" of October and November, 1962.

The USSR had in fact supplied a great deal of military equipment to Cuba prior to July, 1962, including tanks, field artillery pieces, anti-tank guns, and jet military aircraft, all of which had been positively identified. On 1 July, 1962, there were about 500 Soviet military technicians in Cuba advising and training the Cuban armed forces, then estimated at about 75,000 regulars, 100,000 militia and 100,000 home guard.

### Influx of Equipment

In mid-July, 1962, began the influx of Soviet military equipment and military personnel which was detected by our intelligence community and monitored into the latter period of September and October, when the offensive nuclear weapons system (missiles and bombers) appeared.

This buildup ceased on Oct. 24, with the establishment of the quarantine.

We are convinced beyond reasonable doubt, as has been stated by the Department of Defense, that all offensive missiles and bombers known to be in Cuba were withdrawn soon thereafter.

Photographic reports leading in Cuba and at sea proved

Many rumors and reports of the continued presence of the offensive weapons in Cuba have been received. For instance, there has been a number of reports that offensive weapons have been concealed in caves. Some of these reports evidently derive from the known Cuban practice of using caves for storage of small arms, ammunition and other items of military hardware.

### Findings Negative

All statements alleging the presence of offensive weapons are meticulously checked. So far the findings have been negative.

Absolute assurance on these matters, however, could only come from continuing, penetrating on-site inspection.

Prior to the 24th of October, however, very substantial quantities of Soviet military personnel and Soviet equipment, in addition to the offensive missiles and bombers, had already reached Cuba. The inventory of tanks, jet aircraft, military trucks and field pieces more than doubled during this period. In addition many sophisticated Soviet military items appeared for the first time.

### SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CUBA

From a few armed forces in Cuba grew by Oct. 24 to include regular troops manning the tanks and other weapons of mobile armored units, specialists in charge of an extensive surface-to-air missile system, and a large number of other air force, naval and army personnel.

Our current evaluation, based on all sources including known tables of organization of Soviet units, is that a total of about 22,000 Soviet troops were in Cuba during September and October. Since then about 6,000 troops associated with offensive missile systems have left. Some 17,000 Soviet military personnel now remain in Cuba.